



Year 36 No. 63

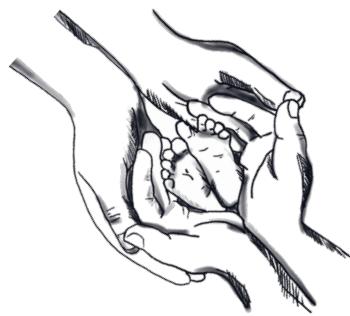
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (A) — White  
Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) Sunday

June 4, 2023

Not many people are aware that every *Sign of the Cross* we make, or every *Glory Be* we say, is really an expression of our belief in the Holy Trinity. But, the Holy Trinity is not only a doctrine of faith to which we give assent. More importantly for us Christians, the Holy Trinity is a *story* of a relationship between God and His people. And in this story, God is revealed as one in three persons—Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. This story is really a love story. God so loved us that the Father created us, that Son offered his life to save us, and that the Holy Spirit accompanies us by his empowering presence until the end of time. The Holy Trinity is not simply a logical conclusion of our rational thought but rather a truth revealed to us by Jesus in the New Testament.

**One but not Alone.** In one of his homilies on the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, Pope Francis remarked: "... inasmuch as he is love, God ... is not solitude but communion, among the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." God is one but He is not alone. God is a community of persons. Being one is different from being alone. The members of a choir sing with one voice. They are one, but they are not alone. The beauty of what they do is in being together. The members of a basketball team play as one squad. They are one, but they are not alone. In fact, their strength is in being united. God is one, but not alone! More specifically, God is a community of loving relationships between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Love unites and brings about communion. Anything that is against love—like jealousy, hatred, anger, infidelity, envy, and pride—divides, and engenders dissension. If we are to be truly an image and likeness of God (Gn 1:26-27), we need to be a community of loving relationships. For this reason, Jesus

## NOT SOLITUDE BUT COMMUNION



by Fr. Victor S. Nicdao

prayed for the unity of his disciples—"that they may be one, Father" (Jn 17:21), and also commanded them to love one another—"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (Jn 13:34). If we are to be a community of loving relationships, we need to focus on the many things that unite us like our common desire to build a better and brighter future for our children, our longing for a government free of graft and corruption, and our unwavering faith in God who will not abandon us but will continue to sustain us. Common concerns, mutual interests and shared objectives can unify us, too. Whatever our differences, whatever sets us apart, whatever distinguishes us from one another—all these can be bridged if we become a community of loving relationships in the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity.

**Respecting Diversity.** The Holy Trinity is a community of three *distinct* persons. It is a unity in diversity. The Father is revealed to us as Creator, the Son as our Savior,

and the Holy Spirit as Guide and Counselor. In addition to being a community of loving relationships, the Holy Trinity is also an invitation to respect diversity.

There is so much hate and violence in our world today. There is bullying happening in various institutions and in social media. There are efforts to suppress contrary views. The irony is that the more we do so, the more divided we become! We are probably familiar with the so-called *cancel culture* or *call-out culture*. Cancel culture is a modern form of ostracism in which a person whose views may appear unacceptable to others is called out and then pushed out of social or professional circles. Those subjected to this ostracism are said to have been *cancelled*. Should we cancel out or ostracize somebody simply because we do not agree with that person? The challenge is not to suppress diversity but to respect it, even embrace it, if we are to be the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity. Perhaps, we can all say together: "Thank God, I am different!"

Our awareness of the Holy Trinity in our lives can be heightened if we can set a specific time each day to think of all the good things we have done and all the beautiful things we have seen, and thank the Father who created all things beautiful. Then, we think of all our failures, the good that we have missed doing and the evil things we have done, and seek forgiveness from the Son who came to redeem us and save us from our sins. Finally, we think of all our plans for tomorrow and the coming days, our dreams and aspirations in life, and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength to be able to bring them all to completion.

For the Holy Trinity to come alive in our lives, we can, perhaps, also add that we begin and end each day, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Recited when there is no opening song.)*

**Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.**

### Greeting

*(The sign of the cross is made here.)*

**P**—The Lord be with you.

**All—And with your spirit.**

### Introduction

*(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)*

**P**—Dear brethren: Our whole life is marked by the sign of the Trinity. The Father created us in love. The Son came to the world to make it possible for us to recover our divine sonship which we lost because of sin. The Holy Spirit continues the work of the Son in the Church and in history until the Lord Jesus returns in glory. In the mystery of the Trinity—"three Persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God"—our journey has its origin. The Holy Trinity is also our final goal. Someday our eyes will finally contemplate the face of God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### Penitential Rite

**P**—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

**P**—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**All—Lord, have mercy.**

**P**—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**All—Christ, have mercy.**

**P**—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**All—Lord, have mercy.**

**P**—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All—Amen.**

### Gloria

**All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Collect

**P**—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

God our Father, who, by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification, made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**All—Amen.**

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



#### First Reading (Ex 34:4b–6, 8–9) (Sit)

*The Lord who revealed himself to the chosen people and who gave his name to Moses is a merciful and gracious God, rich in kindness and fidelity.*

#### A reading from the Book of Exodus

EARLY in the morning, Moses went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, taking along the two stone tablets.

Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, "LORD." Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship. Then he said, "If I find favor with you, O LORD, do come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."

—The word of the Lord.

**All—Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm (Dn 3)

**R—Glory and praise forever!**

Sr. M.C.A Parco, fsp

**1.** Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,/ praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;/ And blessed is your holy and glorious name,/ praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages. **(R)**

**2.** Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,/ praiseworthy and glorious above all forever. **(R)**

**3.** Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,/ praiseworthy and exalted above all forever. **(R)**

**4.** Blessed are you who look into the depths/ from your throne upon the cherubim,/ praiseworthy and exalted above all forever. **(R)**

#### Second Reading (2 Cor 13:11–13)

*Our Christian life is imbued with grace, love, and fellowship which are the gifts and the reflection of the Trinitarian communion. The Holy Trinity is within us and at work in us.*

## A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

—The word of the Lord.

**All—Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia** (Cf. Rv 1:8) (*Stand*)

**All—Alleluia, alleluia. Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Jn 3:16–18)

**P**—A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
**All—Glory to you, Lord.**

GOD SO LOVED the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

—The Gospel of the Lord.  
**All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily** (*Sit*)

**Profession of Faith** (*Stand*)

**All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son**

**of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (At the words that follow up to and including and became man, all bow.) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the Faithful

**P**—The Father through the Holy Spirit has sent Christ his Son to be one with us, and has made him a source of life for us. Let us raise our petitions to the Triune God as we pray:

**R—Triune God, hear our prayer.**

**C—Heavenly Father, send your Spirit to the Church that we may be helped in our frailty and be provided with gifts that will make us pleasing to you. We pray: (R)**

**C—Send your Holy Spirit, dear Father, to our religious and political leaders that they may be filled with strength and**

wisdom to serve your people. We pray: (R)

**C—Compassionate Father, send help to the wayward, the sick, the lonely, and those who suffer in any way. We pray: (R)**

**C—Bind the members of our community together in friendship and unity, that our greetings of peace in the Eucharist may be reflected in our everyday lives. We pray: (R)**

**C—Bless all the efforts of those who form and animate our Basic Ecclesial Communities. May they mirror the same love that you live. We pray: (R)**

**C—Bring the dead to share in your glory—the same glory, of your Son and the Holy Spirit. We pray: (R)**

**C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community, those who are in need of our prayers, and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: (R)**

**P—Father, you send your Word to bring us the truth and your Spirit to make and keep us holy. Help us worship you, one God in three Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All—Amen.**



## Presentation of the Gifts

**P—Pray, brethren...**

**All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## Prayer over the Gifts

**P—Sanctify by the invocation of your name, we pray, O Lord our God, this oblation of our service, and by it make of us an eternal offering to you.**

Through Christ our Lord.

**All—Amen.**

## Preface: The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity

P—The Lord be with you.  
All—And with your spirit.  
P—Lift up your hearts.  
All—We lift them up to the Lord.  
P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
All—It is right and just.  
P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with your Only Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit you are one God, one Lord: not in the unity of a single person, but in a Trinity of one substance.

For what you have revealed to us of your glory we believe equally of your Son and of the Holy Spirit, so that, in the confessing of the true and eternal Godhead, you might be adored in what is proper to each Person, their unity in substance, and their equality in majesty.

For this is praised by Angels and Archangels, Cherubim, too, and Seraphim, who never cease to cry out each day, as with one voice they acclaim: All—**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.** (Kneel)

## Acclamation (Stand)

All—**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

### The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us...

All—**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**

### Invitation to Peace

*Setting the GOLD standard in PILGRIMAGES*

## HOLY LAND, MARIAN & MEXICO

**ENTHRALLING EASTERN EUROPE (Sep 7 - 21, 2023)**  
Austria - Hungary - Slovakia - Poland -Czech Republic  
with Fr. Arvin Soriano

**SACRED HEART & MARIAN JOURNEYS (Sep 17 - Oct 5, 2023)**  
Portugal - Spain - France - Italy  
with Fr. Domie Guzman, SSP

**"LOS COLORES DEL CIELO": THE COLORS OF HEAVEN AT OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, MEXICO (Oct 17 - 28, 2023)**  
with Fr. Rolly Agustin

**HOLY LAND: A SECOND LOOK, A DEEPER EXPERIENCE (Oct 18 - 31, 2023)**  
Israel with Fr. Jojo Zerrudo

**CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM (Dec 21 - 31, 2023)**

**CONTACT US FOR FULL DETAILS AND SCHEDULES.**

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## Invitation to Communion

(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## Communion Antiphon

(Gal 4:6)

**Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.**

## Prayer after Communion

(Stand)

P—Let us pray. (Pause)

May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God, bring us health of body and soul, as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.



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